

**Minutes of the AFC Meeting  
September 6, 2022  
Held by Zoom**

**PRESENT:** A. Abdou; K. Bessant; D. Combet; W. Cook; K. deForest; R. Dwivedula; K. Edmunds; R. Gasse; S. Grills; P. Harms; D. Héту; E. Holland; S. Khayambashi; R. Kramer; D. Lakevold; L. MacKay; M. Malainey; A. Marshall; V. Maud; A. McCulloch; K. McKenzie; L. McLachlan; S. Medd; E. Mihelakis; J. Naylor; K. Noll; S. Petrella; I. Puppe; D. Ramsey; W. Robles; L. Robson; D. Smid; D. Taylor; M. Torabi; E. Varley; D. Winter; K. Wong; L. Xu; F. Zehtab-Jadid; H. Zhuang; L. Jardine; J. Kilpatrick; G. McNeely; J. Lindsay (Science); C. Kazakoff-Lane (Library); D. Johnson (Co-op); B. Spence (Chair); L. Murray (Host); S. Mott (Recorder)

**ABSENT:** C. Boulton; D. Klonowski; L. Mayer; D. Racine; B. Rose; K. Saunders; C. Schneider; B. Strang; H. Venema

**REGRETS:**

**ON LEAVE:** R. Baker; A. Hanemaayer; R. Hinthier; L. Wood

**GUESTS:** Dr. Ruth Knechtel, Research Services

**Call to Order**

Dr. Spence gave the land acknowledgement and welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

**1.0 Approval of the Agenda**

Discussion: S. Grills would like to add "AFC and GFC items" to the agenda and P. Harms would like to add "Clark Hall security issues" as well. Let the new items be added as items 4.4 and 4.5 respectively.

**MOTION (Gasse/Grills): THAT the Agenda be approved as amended.**

**CARRIED.**

**1.1 Approval of Sessional Instructors voting at AFC**

**MOTION (Petrella/Grills): THAT sessional instructors be allowed to vote at AFC.**

**CARRIED.**

**2.0 Approval of the Minutes**

**MOTION: (Kramer/Gasse) THAT the Minutes of the AFC meeting held on April 12, 2022 be approved.**

**CARRIED.**

**3.0 Chairs Report**

Dr. Spence welcomed everyone back to campus and to in-person delivery. A special welcome was extended to new faculty Mostafa Torabi (tenure track in Business Administration), Keith Edmunds (three year term in Business Administration) and Shirin Khayambashi (one year term in Sociology/GWS). W. Robles also added that Rural Development is hosting a visiting researcher from Brazil, Dr. Maria das Graças de Lima from the Universidade Estadual de Maringá, Parana. Dr. das Graças de Lima specializes in gender issues in Brazil, with a focus on Afro Brazilians. She will be presenting on this topic at a later date this term.

Thank you to Mary Malainey for accepting the role of the new vice chair for AFC.

Congratulations to Dale Lakevold and Darrell Racine who are the recent recipients of the Best Full-Length Play Award in Theatre BC 2021 National Playwright Competition. This was for their play, *IAP* which stands for Independent Assessment Process.

Even though we are back to in-person classes, this AFC meeting is being held remotely by Zoom. There is a proposal to have a blended model where AFC would meet in CHO 104 yet still have the Zoom option if people would prefer to attend virtually.

Mask mandates at BU have been relaxed but mask wearing is still recommended. If you prefer students are masked when meeting with you yet they refuse to wear a mask, it was suggested at Dean's Council that a remote meeting can be scheduled in such a case.

As covid restrictions are lessening, sanitation stations in classrooms may not be there. If you would like the supplies replaced (or set up), please email a request to Physical Plant directly.

Building access is currently 8:00am to 9:00pm weekdays for public, 6:00am to midnight for students and 24-7 for all staff.

To reduce BU's carbon footprint, LED lighting is being updated and there is a proposal on the table for a centralized recycle and garbage bin. More information on this new process/system will be shared when available.

Questions and Comments held until after Dr. Knechtel's presentation:

Question raised regarding progress of hiring the RDI Director. Dr. Spence replied that no progress has been made of late and the RDI Director will be added into the next staffing request. He reassured AFC that this position is a priority and a new search will begin upon approval.

Comment was made about new mail delivery system and how parcels seem to be delivered anywhere and Physical Plant unconcerned. Furthermore, asking faculty to receive less mail is inappropriate and if Physical Plant is unable to accommodate the volume of mail, perhaps closing the mail room was a mistake. Dr. Spence will take this concern forward and report on outcome at the next AFC meeting.

Another concern was raised about the garbage collection changes: does this mean the garbage bins will be taken out of faculty offices and faculty will have to dispose of their own garbage? Faculty should not be expected to dispose of their own garbage: this is not in job description/CA and may warrant a discussion with the union if it comes to fruition. Dr. Spence assures that no one will lose the black or blue bin in the offices but the idea is to set up a central collection system. Faculty will not be tasked with this.

A question was raised about recent enrollment data of Arts courses in comparison to other faculties. Although Arts is down 5%, it has better enrollments than the other faculties. Dr. Spence does not have this data prepared for the meeting today but will share before the next meeting.

Another concern was raised about RDI not having an acting director while a sabbatical was delayed in order to accommodate an interim position, seems all for naught. Also a comment was made that the RDI Director position should be an admin position and not an Arts position. Dr. Spence confirmed that an interim position is still in the works and that that two individuals are interested in the interim RDI Director position; nothing has been concluded as of yet. Both of these individuals are faculty members of BU. Discussion continued with an emphasis on the importance of RDI (and the accompanying staffing request) in the community and the need for faculty support on this issue. Dr. Spence agrees completely.

#### **4.0 New Business**

##### **4.1 Dr. Ruth Knechtel, Research Services**

Dr. Knechtel discussed her position and duties in assisting faculty with grant crafting, review of applications, submissions, planning trajectories and goals, facilitating partnerships, and training for external grant applications. Please contact Dr. Knechtel with any questions or if you need further information.

##### **4.2 Elections – Dr. Cameron Boulton, Nominations Coordinator**

C. Boulton not in attendance and the list of nominations is not available: item will be deferred to next meeting.

E. Holland has been nominated as a representative for Arts on Science Faculty Council but she is unable to attend the meetings due to teaching schedule. A new nomination/representative from Arts is needed.

#### **4.3 Certificate in Business**

L. McLachlan and R. Dwivedula presented on a proposed suite of courses for the reintroduction of the one-year Business Admin certificate. The department will meet for wording on the proposal and will have more information to share at AFC soon. The concepts are the same as previously available but the courses and guidelines have been changed. Questions and discussion continued and the suggestions will be considered in future; revival of certificate is in very early stages at this time. There are a few administrative issues (pre-req waivers etc), course/slot times, and 2+2 students that need to be worked out once more details get underway for the certificate.

#### **4.4 GFC Issues – Scott Grills**

S. Grills feels there is an absence of retiree recognition, simply identified as a number and they deserve more recognition than that. We should address and mark retirees at our meetings, invite them to present at our speaker series etc.

Sixty-three members at GFC were disenfranchised and couldn't vote because they were on zoom and not in-person. This does not reflect fair and equitable treatment. Appreciate intention of how AFC will run in future (blended delivery) but will ask AFC if they will go a bit further to ensure that if any meetings are conducted by Zoom, Teams or blended that the rights of participants are preserved. That is they have the right to vote, speak and make motions so their rights are not diminished. If AFC meeting is blended in future, must ensure rights of members are observed as they would be if all are in-person.

**MOTION (Grills/Marshall): THAT, for the 2022-23 academic year, Arts Faculty Council and its related committees (e.g., Review and Planning, AFC Executive) shall be conducted via Zoom/Teams or shall make the option of participating in-person or remotely available to all members (e.g., via Teams or Zoom). The rights of members (e.g., the right to vote, make motions, speak to motions) shall not be limited by the method of participation in the committee/council (i.e., in person or via distance).**

**CARRIED.**

#### **4.5 Security Issues**

P. Harms encountered multiple groups of students over the weekend that had access to Clark Hall with their student cards. When inquiry was made, Physical Plant responded by saying the rules changed and that students will have access to Clark Hall with their student cards from 6am to midnight Monday to Sunday. This is a highly unsafe arrangement and there is no reason why students need after-hours access to Clark Hall, especially with limited security on campus there. In addition, there is confidential information in faculty offices. This raises very serious security issues. Points were also raised that faculty often work in the building on weekends and do not want (and are not required) to be accessible to students 24-7 and there is no reason students need to be in Clark Hall after hours. Discussion continued.

**MOTION (Winter/MacKay): THAT with due considerations for the security of faculty members, confidential data/information and displays/artefacts, the Arts Faculty Council requests reconsideration of the recently published access schedule for the public and students and specifically, that access to Clark Hall be denied to non-employees at the end of classes each day and on weekends.**

**CARRIED.**

**MOTION (Spence): THAT the meeting extend past 2:00pm in order to complete agenda items.**

**NOT CARRIED.**

Meeting will continue until the end of allotted time and remaining items will be deferred to next meeting.

## **5.0 Business Arising from the Minutes**

### **5.1 Arts Faculty Selection Committee Procedures – AFC Review and Planning Committee**

Nothing to Report.

### **5.2 Establishment of ad hoc committee re Dean of Arts Search – AFC Review and Planning Committee**

Nothing to Report.

### **5.3 Sessionals Serving on AFC Committees (continued from last meeting)**

Dr. Spence supports sessionals who want to serve on committees but will leave it to AFC to decide. A point was raised that only full time faculty members should serve on committees that make long term decisions as regular faculty have to live/work with those decisions

Meeting time elapsed: will defer motion to next meeting.

## **6.0 Other Business/Announcements**

### **6.1 BUSU Print Services – Deferred**

## **7.0 Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 2:02pm. Next meeting scheduled for October 4, 2022.